

Application No. 09/803,525
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 13 has been amended to clarify the features of the present invention whereby the processor includes a reading section in which the read-only storage medium and the writable storage medium are separately loaded and a control section which accesses both the read-only storage medium and the writable storage medium loaded in the reading section. See, for example, Fig. 1 and the disclosure in the specification at pages 19 and 20.

In addition, claim 13 has been amended to clarify the features of the present invention whereby the read-only storage medium stores at least a program, a first protection key and a second protection key, and the writable storage medium stores at least image data and a second protection key, and whereby when the control section of the processor accesses the read-only storage medium, the first protection key allows the control section to access the writable storage medium, and the control section processes the image data stored in the writable storage medium based on the program stored in the read-only storage medium, when the control section accesses the writable storage

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medium and determines that the second protection key of the read-only storage medium corresponds to the second key of the writable storage medium. See, for example, (now canceled) claim 14, Figs. 2(b), (c) and (d) and the disclosure in the specification at pages 24-26.

Still further, claims 17 and 18 have been amended to depend from amended independent claim 13, and claims 13 and 16-18 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and/or to correct some minor antecedent basis problems so as to put them in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 13 and 16-18 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 13-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,538,761 ("Yokono et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 13, the processor includes a reading section in which the read-only storage medium and the writable storage medium are separately loaded. That is, the read-only storage

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medium (M1) and the writable storage medium (M2) are physically separate.

With this structure, since the data processing is conducted by accessing the physically independent storage media M1 (the read-only storage medium), in which the program for the data processing is stored, and M2 (the writable storage medium), in which the data to be processed is stored, the data processing program can be updated by replacing only the read-only storage medium M1. Thus, the writable storage medium M2 can be conveniently used for a long time without being replaced.

By contrast, it is respectfully submitted that according to Yokono et al, one storage medium is preferably provided that includes both a read-only and a rewritable area (column 11, lines 44-49). Figs. 6A-6C of Yokono et al, for example, show an entirely rewritable disk in which a non-rewritable area is write-protected (Fig. 6A) and disks with rewritable areas (ARW) and read-only areas (AE) (Figs. 6B and 6C). According to Yokono et al, bundled software is recorded in the read-only area, and downloaded contents, downloaded application programs, edited data, and so on, are recorded in the rewritable area (Fig. 8, col. 12, lines 39-47).

Thus, with the structure of Yokono et al, it is not possible to upgrade the data stored in the read-only area of the disk simply by providing a new read-only storage medium, in the manner

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of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 13.

In addition, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 13, a first protection key and a second protection key are stored on the read-only storage medium, and a second protection key is stored on the writable storage medium.

With this structure, when the control section of the processor accesses the read-only storage medium and finds the first protection key, the access to the writable storage medium is allowed. And when the second protection keys in the read-only storage medium and the writable storage medium are determined to be the same or to have a relationship with each other, the data processing is allowed to be conducted. A not-allowed program can thus be prevented from being executed. (See the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 24, line 20 to page 25, line 15.)

By contrast it is respectfully submitted that Yokono et al merely discloses that one user ID is recorded in the writable area of the disk and is used for personal identification so that the person who knows the user ID can use the disk.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Yokono et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the above described structural features and advantageous effects of the present invention as

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recited in amended independent claim 13 whereby a first protection key and a second protection key are stored on the read-only storage medium, and a second protection key is stored on the writable storage medium.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 13, as well as claims 15-19 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Yokono et al under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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